

Application No.: 09/993,996

Docket No.: 65857-0037

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 - 29 (Cancelled)

30. (Currently Amended) A quick-connect device for connecting fluid lines comprising:

a first connecting element having a receptacle space positioned about a central axis and a wedge receiving opening;

a seal disposed within the receptacle space and around the aperture;

a second connecting element having a flange, wherein the flange has a planar sealing face opposite a wedge face, wherein the second connecting element selectively abuts the sealing face against the seal within the receptacle, and

a wedge-clamping device that has a first connecting element face and a flange face, wherein the first connecting element face is at a non-parallel angle with respect to the flange face;

wherein the wedge-clamping device is movably positioned in the wedge receiving opening and selectively abuts the flange face against the wedge face of the second connecting element;

wherein the wedge-clamping device selectively abuts the first connecting element face against a first defining face of the wedge receiving opening in the first connecting element, and said first connecting face is generally parallel to said first defining face;

wherein movement of the wedge within the wedge receiving opening in a first direction presses the flange face against the wedge face and presses the first connecting element face against the defining face to cause the sealing face to press against the seal;

wherein the wedge lockingly engages the first connecting element.

31. (Previously Presented) The quick-disconnect device according to Claim 30, wherein the wedge-clamping device selectively moves along a non-parallel direction with respect to the central axis.

Application No.: 09/993,996

Docket No.: 65857-0037

32. (Previously Presented) The quick-disconnect device according to Claim 31, wherein the movement of the wedge clamping device in the first direction causes the sealing face to move in a direction parallel to the central axis.

33. (Previously Presented) The quick-disconnect device according to Claim 32, further comprising:

a second defining face that defines a second face of the wedge receiving opening; wherein the first defining face is at a non-parallel angle with respect to the second defining face.

34. (Previously Presented) The quick-disconnect device according to Claim 33, wherein the non-parallel angle between the first defining face and the second defining face is substantially the same as an angle between the first connecting element face and the flange face.

35. (Previously Presented) A quick-connect device for connecting fluid lines comprising:

a first connecting element having a receptacle space defined, at least in part, by an axial sealing surface adjacent an aperture positioned about a central axis and a wedge receiving opening;

a seal disposed within the receptacle space and around the aperture;

a second connecting element having a flange, wherein the flange has a planar sealing face opposite a wedge face, wherein the second connecting element selectively abuts the sealing face against the seal within the receptacle, and

a wedge-clamping device that has a first connecting element face and a flange face, wherein the first connecting element face is at a non-parallel angle with respect to the flange face;

wherein the wedge-clamping device is movably positioned in the wedge receiving opening and selectively abuts the flange face against the wedge face of the second connecting element;

wherein the wedge-clamping device selectively abuts the first connecting element face against a first defining face of the wedge receiving opening in the first connecting element, and said first connecting face is generally parallel to said first defining face;

Application No.: 09/993,996

Docket No.: 65857-0037

wherein movement of the wedge-clamping device within the wedge receiving opening in a first direction presses the flange face against the wedge face and presses the first connecting element face against first the defining face to cause the sealing face to press against the seal and the axial sealing surface;

wherein the wedge-clamping device lockingly engages the first connecting element.

36. (New) A quick-connect device for connecting fluid lines comprising:

a first connecting element having a receptacle space positioned about a central axis and a wedge receiving opening;

a seal disposed within the receptacle space and around the aperture;

a second connecting element having a flange, wherein the flange has a planar sealing face opposite a wedge face, wherein the second connecting element selectively abuts the sealing face against the seal within the receptacle, and

a wedge-clamping device that has a first connecting element face and a flange face, wherein the first connecting element face is at a non-parallel angle with respect to the flange face;

wherein the wedge-clamping device is movably positioned in the wedge receiving opening and selectively abuts the flange face against the wedge face of the second connecting element;

wherein the wedge-clamping device selectively abuts the first connecting element face against a first defining face of the wedge receiving opening in the first connecting element when in an assembled state;

wherein movement of the wedge within the wedge receiving opening in a first direction presses the flange face against the wedge face and presses the first connecting element face against the defining face to cause the sealing face to press against the seal;

wherein the wedge lockingly engages the first connecting element.